



The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission

Discussion Points: LD242 – February 2021

NOTE: LD242 is scheduled for a public hearing at Criminal Justice & Public Safety on Monday 2/22/21 at 10am. Senator Cyrway will be offering our amendment to remove the sunset and continue to authorize \$500,000 in annual appropriation for grants to fund regional Live Fire Training Facilities.

Since 1999 the Fire Commission has worked diligently with a wide range of stakeholders to improve firefighter training and education. The Fire Commission has conducted studies, produced reports, and submitted legislation to improve the availability, quality, and safety of firefighter training across Maine.

One of the core duties of the Fire Commission is “to assist all governmental agencies with firefighter training and education responsibilities to enhance their delivery of services to fire prevention, protection and life safety professionals, including paid, call and volunteer fire service members”.

Maine's Fire Fighting Training Challenges:

Maine is a very large and diverse state with a wide range of fire service capabilities and fire fighting training needs.

Maine is one of very few states in the nation that has no central training facility. In addition, no live fire training facilities are owned or operated by the State, they are all owned and managed by local communities, volunteers, and mutual aid training groups.

Live fire training is a necessary qualification for firefighter certification and proficiency. Live fire training is one of the most dangerous evolutions firefighters perform.

Historically, most live fire training was conducted in acquired structures. Due to costly liability issues, environmental regulations, and toxic smoke concerns from neighbors, acquired structure live fire training is rarely allowed - and is no longer recommended.

No matter where or how firefighters are trained in Maine, they must be trained for all duties they are expected to perform, including fighting structure fires.

All training must be in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. This includes *NFPA 1403 Standard for Live Fire Training Evolutions 2012*.

LD 242 will remove the sunset provision given with three years of initial Live Fire Training Facility funding established in 2018.

Maine Fire Services Stakeholder Solution:

Maine's firefighters need safe & effective regional facilities where they can:

- learn, train, practice, and demonstrate proficiency in live-fire evolutions
- end-test practical skills for certification,
- maintain skills to protect the citizens in their communities all across Maine.

LD 242 will guarantee that:

- Live Fire Training Facilities are geographically located across Maine,
- quality training is readily available for more distant and rural firefighters,
- equitable training & testing is provided by fire instructors and training agencies
- local resources are leveraged to maximize return on State taxpayer investments

Due to COVID we will not be able to testify in person.

It is imperative that we write and call our Representatives and Senators to request that they ensure the passing and continued funding of Live Fire Training Facilities through LD 242.

Find and contact your Representative (listed by Town)

[Maine House of Representatives](#)

Find and contact your Senator (listed by Town)

[Find your State Senator | Maine State Legislature](#)

Members of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee

[Committees | Maine Legislature CJ&PS](#)

Members of the Appropriations & Financial Affairs Committee

[Committees | Maine Legislature Appropriations](#)



**LD242 An Act To Support the
Maine Fire Protection Services Commission**
LD242 removes the sunset provision & funds the MFPS
Live Fire Training Facility Grant Program

Maine Fire Protection Services Commission LD242



Firefighters in Maine are required by the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards to train, maintain, and be proficient in tasks before performing those tasks on the fire ground. Few fire training facilities in Maine meet national standards relevant to today's firefighting needs. Many of our current training facilities are failing structurally and are lacking in geographic location - with Maine's rural firefighters severely under served. We are working to reverse these issues with grants: provided locally and leveraged with well managed fire training programs.

As determined by our 2018 study and report - Our goal is to provide and support compliant live fire training facilities within an hours travel time for over 90% of Maine's Firefighters.

LD242 helps us meet our goals for Maine firefighters, our citizens, and taxpayers. Please help continue our success!

Support improvements for Maine's Firefighters — support LD242